

HABS No. ID-77

Nez Perce Indian Agency--Agent's Residence
Nez Perce National Historical Park
Spalding
Nez Perce County
Idaho

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35-SPALD,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

NEZ PERCE INDIAN AGENCY -- AGENT'S RESIDENCE

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LOCATION: Nez Perce National Historical Park. West of the bridge over Lapwai Creek and north of the railroad tracks in the town of Spalding, Nez Perce County, Idaho.

PRESENT OWNER: National Park Service

PRESENT USE: Vacant

SIGNIFICANCE: In 1861, the Nez Perce Indian Agency was formally established in Lapwai (renamed Spalding), Idaho, as one of the provisions of the 1855 treaty between the U.S. government and the Nez Perce tribe. The agency was created to administer the reparations of the treaty. The Nez Perce were promised money, teachers and schools, houses and jobs in exchange for the traditional lands they agreed to cede so white settlement and development could proceed. The agency was a complex comprised of residences, offices, barns, grist and sawmills, other service-related structures, and fenced agricultural fields and irrigation ditches.

This two-story frame residence built in 1891 was an integral part of this self-sufficient complex. C. T. Stranahan, the last agent to serve at Spalding, lived in this house from 1896 until 1904 (the agency had officially closed at Spalding in 1902, relocating 4 miles to the south). After 1904 it served at various times as an inn, boardinghouse, saloon, and residence. This structure, restored in 1977, is one of three surviving buildings of the agency period.